



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

June 1, 2006

Lake Charles man convicted for possession of child pornography

LAKE CHARLES, La. - A 59-year-old Lake Charles man pleaded guilty here on May 25 for possessing child pornography following a joint investigation between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office.

Gayland Bruce Hewitt admitted to having a collection of hundreds of illegal pornographic images that included photos of various juveniles under the age of twelve engaged in various sexual acts.

Hewitt was indicted on March 14 by a federal grand jury in Lake Charles. He subsequently entered a guilt plea to one count in violation of Title 18, USC 2252A for possessing child pornography.

"Predators who think that they will engage in their repulsive acts unnoticed must think twice," said Michael A. Holt, special agent-in-charge for ICE in New Orleans. "We, along with our law enforcement partners, will use all the resources at our disposal to identify, investigate and prosecute predators."

The investigation into Hewitt's activities was part of ICE's Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to identify, investigate, arrest and, in the case of foreign nationals, deport child sex predators. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 8,093 individuals nationwide.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The hotline is staffed around-the-clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.